GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3801
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL FUND FOR STRATEGIC AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Dr. M.S. Swaminathan Commission has recommended for establishing National Fund for Strategic Agricultural Research with corpus of Rs.50 crores;

(b) if so, whether the said recommendation has been accepted by the Government;

(c) if so, the steps taken for its speedy implementation;

(d) whether efforts have been made to tie-up with multilateral agencies like World Bank and Asian Development Bank etc. in this regard in view of insufficient provisions of the funds for the same;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the current status of the proposal; and

(f) the present position of the fund and the steps taken to grant sufficient funds thereunder for encouraging agricultural research?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Finance Minister announced in his budget speech for the year 2006-07 an initial provision of Rs. 50 crore for operationalizing the National Fund. There after an Empowered Committee with very eminent Chairman and Members was constituted by the Hon`ble Minister of Agriculture in 2006-07 for the Fund functioning. The DARE/ICAR is operating the Fund.

(d) & (e): No, Sir. However, the ICAR is now operating a World Bank funded National Agricultural Innovation Project with one of the Components entitled, ` Basic and Strategic Research in Frontier Areas of Agricultural Sciences` with a budget of US$56million (approx. Rs. 250 crore) for six years to support large projects.

(f) So far 14 innovative high quality projects have been sanctioned under the Fund with a total budget of Rs. 24.76 crore. Some projects are in the process of selection and sanction.